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TRAINING AND RESEARCH

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ahmed Yousif MOHAMED (Sudan)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 23 September 1994, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in its agenda the item entitled:

"Training and research:

"(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"(b) United Nations University"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 20th, 28th, 30th, 31st and 34th meetings, on 7, 16 and 29 November and 1 and 13 December 1994. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/49/SR.20, 28, 30, 31 and 34). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 8th meetings, on 7 and 11 to 13 October (see A/C.2/49/SR.3-8).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 3 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting

the ministerial declaration of the Group of 77 adopted at its eighteenth annual Ministerial Meeting, held in New York on 30 September 1994 (A/49/462 and Corr.1);

(b) Letter dated 23 September 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Final Report of the XX regular meeting of the Latin American Council, held in Mexico City from 30 May to 3 June 1994 (A/49/486);

(a) United Nations Institute for Training and Research

(a) Report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 48/207 (A/49/634);

(b) United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University. 2/

4. At the 20th meeting, on 7 November, the Rector of the United Nations University made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/49/SR.20).

5. At the 28th meeting, on 16 November, the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research made an introductory statement (see A/C.2/49/SR.28).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.42

6. At the 30th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Japan introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/49/L.42) entitled "United Nations University" on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, Ecuador, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Luxembourg, Mauritania, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Peru, the Philippines, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, joined subsequently by Andorra, Bolivia, Honduras, Hungary, Nigeria, the Russian Federation and Venezuela.

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/49/14).

2/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/49/31).

7. At the 31st meeting, on 1 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Arjan P. Hamburger (Netherlands), informed the Committee of the results of the informal consultations held on the draft resolution and orally amended the text as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the word "organizations" was replaced with the word "agencies";

(b) In operative paragraph 4, the word "General" was added before the word "Assembly".

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.42, as orally amended, without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolutions A/C.2/49/L.46 and L.59

9. At the 30th meeting, on 29 November, the representative of Nigeria introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/49/L.46) entitled "United Nations Institute for Training and Research" on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Benin, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Japan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria and Uganda, joined subsequently by Bolivia, Guinea, Haiti, Kenya and the Sudan. The draft resolution read as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"Recalling its resolutions 47/227 of 8 April 1993 and 48/207 of 21 December 1993,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research 3/ and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute, 4/

"Recognizing the growing importance and relevance of training within the United Nations and the new training requirements of all Member States,

"Considering also the relevance of research activities undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research within its mandate,

"Acknowledging the importance for the restructured Institute of continuing to develop closer relationships with relevant national and international institutions in industrialized and developing countries in order to enable the United Nations system to respond to training needs in the most cost-effective manner and in the best interest of all Member States,

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3/ A/49/634.

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/49/14).

"Taking note with satisfaction of the steps taken to complete the restructuring process of the Institute which is once again becoming the dynamic training institution that it was originally intended to be,

"1. Takes note of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"2. Urges Member States to make voluntary contributions to the restructured Institute, in particular to its General Fund, so as to assure its viability, and the further development of its training programmes;

"3. Reaffirms that the funding of training programmes held at the specific request of States Members of the United Nations, members of organs of the United Nations system or members of the specialized agencies should be arranged by the requesting parties;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, free of charge and without financial implications for the United Nations, office space in Geneva, within existing means, as well as the usual logistic and administrative support for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

"5. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide, free of charge and without financial implications for the Institute, liaison office space in New York, and requests within this context, the Board of Trustees to give the necessary attention to the matters with a view to avoiding any negative financial impact on the Institute;

"6. Invites the United Nations and its funds and programmes, in particular the United Nations Development Programme, to develop their collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research with the aim of making the Institute an important provider of training and research for the United Nations system;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution."

10. On 2 December 1994, a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, was circulated in document A/C.2/49/L.52.

11. At the 34th meeting, on 13 December, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Arjan P. Hamburger (Netherlands), introduced a draft resolution (A/C.2/49/L.59), submitted by him on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46.

12. The Committee had before it a statement on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.2/49/L.66).

13. Before the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement (see A/C.2/49/SR.34).

14. At its 34th meeting, on 13 December, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59 without a vote (see para. 17, draft resolution II).

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Cameroon, the United States of America, Japan, Nigeria, Austria, Australia and Pakistan (see A/C.2/49/SR.34).

16. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.59, draft resolution A/C.2/49/L.46 was withdrawn by the sponsors.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE

17. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

United Nations University

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its previous resolutions on the United Nations University,

Having considered the report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University in 1993, 5/ and its development in 1994, as presented orally by the Rector of the United Nations University on 7 November 1994, 6/

Taking note of decision 4.2.2 adopted by the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its one hundred and forty-fourth session, held in Paris from 25 April to 5 May 1994,

Expressing its deep appreciation for the voluntary contributions made to date by Governments and other public and private entities in support of the University,

Noting with appreciation the efforts made by the Rector to reduce the administrative costs and consolidate the programme of the University, but concerned about the continuing financial difficulties it is experiencing,

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5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 31 (A/49/31).

6/ Ibid., Forty-ninth Session, Second Committee, 20th meeting.

Noting with appreciation also the decision of the Council to carry out a forward-looking assessment of the work the University has undertaken under its medium-term perspective for 1990-1995 in order to determine its future course,

Concerned that there is insufficient awareness of the work the University is doing, particularly among other United Nations organs, and that the results of that work are not used as extensively as they could be,

Recognizing that the University is making a growing number of contributions as a global reservoir of ideas for the international community in general and the United Nations system in particular, and expecting that these contributions will increase in the course of its third decade of existence, which commences next year,

1. Welcomes the fact that the Council of the United Nations University has initiated a process of consolidating the programme of the University and bringing it into closer correspondence with the priorities and concerns of the United Nations and the world academic community and stresses the need to continue this process;

2. Requests, in this connection, the Council and the Rector of the United Nations University to take further steps to promote the visibility of the University, particularly among Member States, the United Nations and its agencies, to strengthen its links with them and to enhance the dissemination of the results of its work, and to include such steps in the report of the Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

3. Stresses the need to enhance further coordination and cooperation between the research and training centres of the University;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to consider innovative measures to improve the communication and interaction between the University and the other bodies in the United Nations system and to ensure the integration of the work of the University into all relevant activities of the United Nations system, taking into account General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992, so that the United Nations system may draw more extensively upon the work of the University, and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session;

5. Requests the Council and the Rector to continue to make efforts to ensure the efficiency and economy of the activities of the University as well as its financial transparency and accountability, and to intensify efforts to augment its Endowment Fund, and to mobilize operating contributions and other programme and project support;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to make efforts to ensure and enhance the real value of the capital of the Endowment Fund of the University;

7. Appeals to the international community to make voluntary contributions to the University, in particular to its Endowment Fund.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/180 of 19 December 1991, 47/227 of 8 April 1993 and 48/207 of 21 December 1993,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Institute for Training and Research 7/ and the report of the Acting Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the activities of the Institute, 8/

Recognizing the growing importance and relevance of training within the United Nations and the new training requirements of all Member States,

Considering the relevance of research activities related to training undertaken by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research within its mandate,

Acknowledging the importance for the restructured Institute of continuing to develop closer relationships with relevant national and international institutions in industrialized and developing countries in order to enable the United Nations system to respond to training needs in the most cost-effective manner and in the best interest of all Member States,

Taking note with interest of the steps taken to complete the restructuring process of the Institute with a view to making it the dynamic training institution that it was originally intended to be,

1. Takes note of the recommendations of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research;

2. Urges Member States to make voluntary contributions to the restructured Institute, in particular to its General Fund, so as to assure its viability and the further development of its training programmes;

3. Reaffirms that the funding of all the administrative budget and the training programmes of the Institute shall be covered from voluntary contributions, donations, special-purpose grants and executing agency overheads;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to provide for the Institute in the future and retroactively since the move of its headquarters to Geneva at fair costs, based on the costs borne by the United Nations itself and ensuring an

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7/ A/49/634.

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 14 (A/49/14).

equal treatment with other United Nations entities, office space at Geneva, as well as administrative and logistic support;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General to provide for the Institute at fair costs, based on the costs borne by the United Nations itself and ensuring an equal treatment with other United Nations entities, liaison office space in New York, and, in this context, requests the Board of Trustees to give the necessary attention to these matters with a view to avoiding any negative financial impact on the Institute;

6. Invites the United Nations Institute for Training and Research and the United Nations and its funds and programmes, including the United Nations Development Programme, to develop and intensify their collaboration, with the aim of making the Institute an important provider of training and training-related research for the United Nations system and to avoid unnecessary duplication of work;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to strengthen, in accordance with their respective mandates, the cooperation between the Institute and other qualified national and international institutions, including the International Training Centre of the International Labour Organization at Turin, Italy;

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the measures taken in the implementation of the present resolution.